

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 020502

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FI, VS

SUBJECT: GOF POSITION ON PRG PARTICIPATION IN THE LAW OF
WAR CONFERENCE

LONDON FOR GEORGE ALDRICH

REF: HELSINKI 166

1. UNDER SECRETARY SISCO CALLED IN FINNISH AMBASSADOR
TUOMINEN TO DISCUSS GOF POSITION CONCERNING ISSUE OF
PRG PARTICIPATION IN FORTHCOMING SECOND SESSION OF LOW
CONFERENCE. THE UNDER SECRETARY POINED OUT THAT THE U.S.
REGARDS THIS ISSUE AS HAVING BEEN SETTLED BY VIRTUE OF
THE DEFEAT OF THE RESOLUTION TO ADMIT THE PRG AT THE
FIRST SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE LAST FEBRUARY. HE ADDED
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THAT THIS ACTION WAS REINFORCED BY THE RESULTS OF A MAIL

TALLY OF GOVERNMENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE SUBSEQUENT WEAPONS CONFERENCE IN LUCERNE. THE UNDER SECRETARY CONTINUED THAT IF THIS ISSUE IS RAISED IN THE SECOND SESSION OF LOW, WE BELIEVE THAT CONFERENCE RULE 32 REQUIRING A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY FOR RECONSIDERATION WOULD CLEARLY APPLY. SHOULD SUCH A RULING BY THE CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN BE CHALLENGED, WE WOULD URGE THAT THE GOF SUPPORT THE CHAIRMAN'S RULING TO APPLY RULE 32 -- I.E. TO SUSTAIN THE DECISION ALREADY TAKEN BY THE

FIRST SESSION NOT TO INVITE THE PRG. SHOULD THE MATTER COME TO A VOTE ON THE INVITATION ITSELF, WE WOULD URGE THAT THE GOF AT LEAST ABSTAIN ON THIS ISSUE AS IT HAS IN THE PAST. IN CONCLUDING, THE UNDER SECRETARY CALLED THE AMBASSADOR'S ATTENTION TO THE CURRENT NORTH VIETNAMESE/PRG MILITARY ESCALATION IN SOUTH VIET-NAM AND NOTED THAT THIS WOULD BE A VERY BAD TIME TO GRANT ADDITIONAL STATUS TO THE PRG BY INVITING THEM TO THIS CONFERENCE.

2. FINNISH EMBASSY COUNSELOR TANNER, WHO ACCOMPANIED TUOMINEN, INDICATED AFTER THE MEETING THAT U.S. VIEWS WOULD BE CABLED TO FONMIN.

3. YOU SHOULD MAKE ADDITIONAL PARALLEL REPRESENTATIONS TO THE GOF IN THE STRONGEST VEIN. THESE SHOULD BE AT LEAST AT THE LEVEL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND, IF YOU BELIEVE MORE EFFECTIVE, AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S LEVEL AND SHOULD STRESS IMPORTANCE OF POSITIVE GOF SUPPORT ON ANY PROCEDURAL VOTES, ESPECIALLY IF CHAIRMAN ASKS CONFERENCE TO VOTE AS TO APPLICABILITY OF RULE 32. KISSINGER

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